

**U.S. District Court
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:18-cv-01073-CRC**

WITTES v. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Assigned to: Judge Christopher R. Cooper
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 05/07/2018
Jury Demand: None
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

Plaintiff**BENJAMIN WITTES**

represented by **Laurence M. Schwartztol**
PROTECT DEMOCRACY PROJECT
2020 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
#163
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 945-2092
Fax: (929) 777-8428
Email: larry.schwartztol@protectdemocracy.org
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

V.

Defendant**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

represented by **Damon William Taaffe**
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Civil Division
555 Fourth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530
(202) 252-2544
Fax: (202) 252-2599
Email: damon.taaffe@usdoj.gov
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Doris Denise Coles-Huff
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
555 Fourth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530
(202) 252-2557
Fax: (202) 252-2599
Email: doris.coles@usdoj.gov
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
05/07/2018	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0090-5466473) filed by BENJAMIN WITTES. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>2</u> Exhibit, # <u>3</u> Exhibit, # <u>4</u> Summons, # <u>5</u> Summons, # <u>6</u> Summons)(Schwartztol, Laurence) (Attachment 1 replaced on 5/8/2018) (zmd). (Entered: 05/07/2018)
05/07/2018		Case Assigned to Judge Christopher R. Cooper. (zmd) (Entered: 05/08/2018)
05/08/2018	<u>2</u>	SUMMONS (3)Issued Electronically as to U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent) (zmd) (Entered: 05/08/2018)

05/18/2018	<u>3</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Damon William Taaffe on behalf of U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 05/18/2018)
05/21/2018	<u>4</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 5/15/2018. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 6/14/2018. (Schwartztol, Laurence) (Entered: 05/21/2018)
05/21/2018	<u>5</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 5/15/18. (Schwartztol, Laurence) (Entered: 05/21/2018)
05/21/2018	<u>6</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE served on 5/15/2018 (Schwartztol, Laurence) (Entered: 05/21/2018)
06/14/2018	<u>7</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE.(Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 06/14/2018)
06/14/2018	<u>8</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Damon William Taaffe on behalf of U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 06/14/2018)
06/26/2018		MINUTE ORDER: Before the Court in this FOIA case are a complaint and an answer. It is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall confer and file a joint proposed schedule for briefing or disclosure by July 12, 2018. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 6/26/2018. (lccrc3) (Entered: 06/26/2018)
06/27/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Proposed Briefing Schedule due by 7/12/2018 (lsj) (Entered: 06/27/2018)
07/12/2018	<u>9</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 07/12/2018)
07/18/2018		MINUTE ORDER: Defendant shall make its first release of responsive records by August 31, 2018, and make monthly releases thereafter to the extent necessary. The parties shall also file a Joint Status Report by September 7, 2018, in which they will report on their progress and propose a briefing schedule if necessary. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 7/18/2018. (lccrc3) (Entered: 07/18/2018)
07/19/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: First release of responsive records due by 8/31/2018; monthly releases due thereafter to the extent necessary. Joint Status Report due by 9/7/2018. (jl) (Entered: 07/19/2018)
08/03/2018	<u>10</u>	NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPEARANCE as to BENJAMIN WITTES. (Murphy, Allison) (Entered: 08/03/2018)
09/05/2018	<u>11</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 09/05/2018)
09/05/2018		MINUTE ORDER: In light of the parties' <u>11</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further Joint Status Report by October 15, 2018, in which they will report on their progress and propose a briefing schedule if necessary. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 09/05/2018. (lccrc3) (Entered: 09/05/2018)
09/06/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 10/15/2018 (lsj) (Entered: 09/06/2018)
10/15/2018	<u>12</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 10/15/2018)
10/17/2018		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' <u>12</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further status report on or before November 15, 2018, to include a proposed briefing schedule if necessary. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 10/17/2018. (lccrc3) (Entered: 10/17/2018)
10/17/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Further Status Report due by 11/15/2018 (lsj) (Entered: 10/17/2018)
11/14/2018	<u>13</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 11/14/2018)

11/16/2018		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' <u>13</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further status report on or before December 14, 2018, to include a proposed briefing schedule if necessary. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 11/16/2018. (lccrc3) (Entered: 11/16/2018)
11/19/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report and Proposed Briefing Schedule due by 12/14/2018 (lsj) (Entered: 11/19/2018)
12/14/2018	<u>14</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 12/14/2018)
12/17/2018		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' <u>14</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further status report on or before January 18, 2019. It is further ORDERED that the parties shall adhere to the following briefing schedule: Defendant shall file its motion for summary judgment on or before February 4, 2019; Plaintiff shall file his opposition on or before February 25, 2019; Defendant shall file its reply on or before March 8, 2019. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 12/17/2018. (lccrc3) (Entered: 12/17/2018)
12/18/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 1/18/2019. Summary Judgment motions due by 2/4/2019. Response to Motion for Summary Judgment due by 2/25/2019. Reply to Motion for Summary Judgment due by 3/8/2019. (lsj) (Entered: 12/18/2018)
01/18/2019	<u>15</u>	MOTION to Stay by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Coles-Huff, Doris) (Entered: 01/18/2019)
01/18/2019		MINUTE ORDER granting <u>15</u> Motion to Stay. All deadlines in this case are hereby stayed. Defendant shall notify the Court when necessary appropriations are renewed. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 01/18/2019. (lccrc3) (Entered: 01/18/2019)
01/30/2019	<u>16</u>	NOTICE of Restored Government Funding by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 01/30/2019)
02/01/2019		MINUTE ORDER: In light of the restoration of appropriations, the stay in this case is lifted. The parties shall provide a joint status report on or before February 8, 2019, which shall include a proposed schedule for future proceedings. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 02/01/2019. (lccrc3) (Entered: 02/01/2019)
02/01/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report and Proposed Briefing Schedule due by 2/8/2019 (lsj) (Entered: 02/01/2019)
02/06/2019	<u>17</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Taaffe, Damon) (Entered: 02/06/2019)
02/06/2019		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of the parties' <u>17</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall adhere to the following briefing schedule: Defendant shall file its motion for summary judgment on or before April 5, 2019; Plaintiff shall file his opposition on or before April 26, 2019; Defendant shall file its reply on or before May 10, 2019. Signed by Judge Christopher R. Cooper on 02/06/2019. (lccrc3) (Entered: 02/06/2019)